

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending in the application. Claims 10-20 are cancelled. Claims 1-9 and 21-30 remain pending. Claims 1, 2, 21, and 25-28 stand rejected. Claims 3-9, 22-24, 29, and 30 were objected to. Claims 1, 3, 7, 21-22, 27, and 29 have been amended. For at least the following reasons, claims 1-9 and 21-30 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections — 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 21 and 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,414 issued to Gulick. Although Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections of these claims, the claims have been amended in a form which the Examiner has acknowledged will place them in condition for allowance.

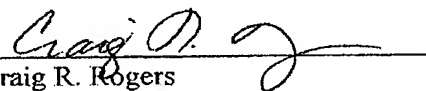
Specifically, claims 3-9, 22-24, 29 and 30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former dependent claim 7, which was said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 and each of its dependent claims are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and is also therefore believed to be in condition for allowance along with its dependent claims.

Claim 21 has been amended to include a limitation similar to that found in former claim 7 and is therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance, along with its dependent claims. Claim 22 has been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim and is also believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations from objected to dependent claim 29 and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance along with its dependent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9 and 21-30 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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